

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims of the present application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4, 7-8, 10, 12, 14-16, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0199073 (“Tamura”) in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0097243 (“Yamashita”). In this reply, applicant is amending independent claims 1, 12 and 16 to further clarify what is being claimed. Support for the amendment can be found at least in paragraph [0025] of the original specification.

According to MPEP §2142, a required prong to establish a prima facie case of obviousness is that the prior art references when combined must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Tamura and Yamashita, however, do not disclose or suggest every element claimed in independent claims 1, 12 and 16 as amended. For instance, neither Tamura nor Yamashita disclose or suggest to “automatically generate” a list of available adapters. The Office Action cites Tamura’s figure 8 as allegedly disclosing displaying of adapters. While Tamura’s figure 7 displays groups of target and initiator ports, Tamura does not generate those ports automatically. Rather, Tamura explains that user’s knowledge is used in assigning target ports and initiator ports (See Tamura, paragraph [0037]). Tamura further explains in paragraph [0038] that those ports are selected manually. Thus, Tamura does not disclose or suggest at least, “automatically generating and displaying available adapters compatible with said type of remote copying path, via the user interface, through which a path can be established between the selected source

storage resource and the selected target storage resource,” recited in independent claims 1, 12 and 16.

Yamashita as understood by applicant discloses storage path control method. In the cited passages, Yamashita discloses that upon accessing a volume and at occurrence of an error of an event in which the pertinent device is not detected, a dynamic switching function is used to set an alternate path. Yamashita, however, also does not disclose or suggest automatically generating and displaying a list of adapter through which a path can be established between the selected source storage resource and the selected target storage resource. Rather, Yamashita finds an alternate path when an actual access to a volume fails. In the present application, a list of available adapters are automatically generated and displayed, and is updated dynamically, for example, so that a user can select one or more available adapters as a path, and for example, as to possibly reduce the occurrence of situations where an alternate path needs to be set during the actual access to the volume as is done in Yamashita.

For at least the above reason, applicant believes independent claims 1, 12 and 16, and their respective dependent claims by virtue of dependency are not obvious over Tamura and Yamashita.

Claims 5, 6, 9 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Tamura in view of Yamashita further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0001307 (“Nguyen”). Claims 5, 6, 9 and 11 depend from claim 1, and therefore, the same reasoning given above for distinguishing claim 1 from Tamura applies to claims 5, 6, 9 and 11. Further, while Nguyen as understood by applicant discloses configuration of virtual connections, Nguyen does not make up for which Tamura and Yamashita fail to disclose. Accordingly, it is

believed that Tamura, Yamashita and Nguyen do not disclose or suggest every element claimed in claims 5, 6, 9 and 11.

In view of the amendments made to independent claims and the foregoing remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of these claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) grounds, and withdraw the rejections of the claims either directly or indirectly dependent thereon by virtue of their dependency.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference might expedite prosecution of this case, it is respectfully requested that he call applicant's attorney at (516) 742-4343.

Respectfully submitted,



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